



James Edward Long

February 8, 1941 - November 21, 2023

James Edward Long, age 82, of Baskett in Henderson, KY, passed away at 10:40 a.m., Tuesday, November 21, 2023, at his home under the care of St. Anthony's Hospice.

Jim was born February 8, 1941, in La Clede, IL. His parents were the late James Richard Long and Audrey Clara Wagoner Long. He was one of eight children born to a strong and blessed marriage. Jim was united in marriage to his highschool sweetheart, Nancy Lyman Williams on August 17, 1963, at Baskett Christian Church.

He received his Bachelors Degree and two Masters Degrees from Murray State University. Jim retired in January 2008 after 43 meaningful and distinguished years of service in teaching to children and adults of Henderson County. His first year of teaching was at Barrett Junior High School, later becoming principal of Smith Mills Elementary. His time at Barrett and Smith Mills may be categorized as holding many fond memories. He had wonderful parental support and a superb working relationship with the staff and students. During the next 14 years, he taught and was the Student Financial Aid/Guidance Counselor at Henderson Community College. While at HCC, he attained the rank of full professor in the University of Kentucky Community College System. Jim became the principal of North Junior High School and remained there for 6 years. As principal, Jim started the Educational Travel

program and the Bonnett program (with the guidance of Roy Pullam). He felt he had a great support group of teachers at NJHS and with their love and loyalty, many new programs were created for the students. His wife Nancy said he could always see the “big picture”; consequently, this characteristic was most helpful in all of his endeavors. Jim became the first Director of Personnel for the Henderson County School System in 1986, a position he held until his retirement in January of 2008.

Jim was an athlete, receiving varsity letters in three sports: football, basketball, and baseball during his sophomore, junior, and senior years at Henderson County High School. It was these sports, plus an officiating class at Murray State University that led him to officiating basketball and football over a 27-year period. He officiated at the highschool and college level, working over 1600 games in his career. The highlights of this involvement were officiating three basketball games in the 1985 Kentucky Boys High School Sweet Sixteen Tournament at Rupp Arena and two 4-A Finals in Kentucky High School football in 1977 and 1979.

He always felt he should give back to his community. Over the years he served on many boards including the Baskett Christian Church, Baskett Recreation League, Baskett Volunteer Fire Department, Baskett Cemetery, Henderson County/Ohio Valley United Way, Henderson Community College Advisory Board, University of Kentucky Community College Senate, Henderson County Health Care Corporation/Redbanks, Henderson Union Electric/Kenergy, Big Rivers, Hugh Edward Sandefur Center, Kentucky Human Resources Association, and the Henderson County Public Library.

During the centennial celebration of Baskett in 1988, Jim put up 80 plus flags throughout the community. After the celebration he continued to adorn the community with flags on celebratory days. Furthermore, upon the death of a community member, flags were placed on Baskett Lane and around the

Baskett Cemetery. His creativity not only included putting up flags, building a home, and being an educator. In 1973, with the help of others, he turned a coal mine dump into a playground area and ball field for children and adults to enjoy. Grants were written and the Henderson County Court provided funds for lighting and helped with the leveling of the field. Jim's idea for the park is still alive and is greatly used in the summer months.

Jim loved the USA, particularly Kentucky and Baskett; however he also loved to travel and had set a goal as a third grader to see all 48 states (then 2 more were added). He and Nancy attained that goal of touring all 50 states and all of their capitals, however he always said the best part of all the travels was that turn off of US 60 onto Baskett Lane, which led to home.

The true inspiration of his life was his family; thus, he greatly enjoyed the home which he, his wife and her dad Thomas built. The home has served the family well by providing many beautiful memories of dinner parties, showers, weddings, and grand Christmas celebrations, plus many hours of family being together. The name "Sir" affectionately became the name he was called by his grandchildren.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his brother, Richard "Buster" Long; and sisters: Lela Mae Long Burnett and Irma Jean Kruenegel.

Jim is survived by his wife of 60 years, Nancy Long; daughter, Abbie Sue Zastawny (Edward); son, James Brennan Long; four grandchildren: Ethan Edward Zastawny, Brennan Michael Zastawny, Lillian Veatrice Long, and Hannah Claire Long; brothers, Scottie Joe Long (Cindy) and John Robert Long; sisters, Shirley Roberts and Sharon Boston Utley (Buddy). Also surviving are sister-in-law, Sue Beasley Williams, and brother-in-law, Jonathan Williams (Linda). He was also blessed with many loving nieces and nephews.

Relatives and friends are invited to Jim's Life Celebration from 11:00 a.m. until service time on Saturday, November 25, 2023, at Benton-Glunt and Tapp Funeral Home in Henderson, KY. The funeral service will be held at 2:00 p.m. at the funeral home with Minister Jim Westmoreland and Jim Long's niece Lee Ann Oliver officiating. A private burial will be held at the Baskett Cemetery at a later date.

Expressions of sympathy may take the form of contributions to: Baskett Christian Church (7478 Carson Dr Henderson KY 42420) or the Baskett Cemetery.

Arrangements entrusted to Benton-Glunt & Tapp Funeral Home, A Life Celebration® Home, online condolences may be made at www.bentongluntandtappfuneralhome.com.

Cemetery Details

Baskett Cemetery

Baskett, KY

Previous Events

Life Celebration

NOV **25**. 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Benton-Glunt & Tapp Funeral Home
629 S. Green St.
Henderson, KY 42420
(270) 827-3535
email@bentonglunttapp.com
<https://www.bentongluntandtappfuneralhome.com/>

Funeral Service

NOV **25**. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

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Tribute Wall

SP

“ I just learned of Mr. Long's passing. I attended Smith Mills school and had him as a wonderful, caring, and funny teacher and principal for several years. He made learning fun and made a wonderful impression on me for learning and living. He will be deeply missed.
Suzanne Whittington Posselt

Suzanne Whittington Posselt - September 28, 2024 at 04:09 PM

JR

“ Just recently heard of Jimmy's passing. Jimmy was one-of-a-kind....that being a "kind" that doesn't pass through this old world often enough. "Kind" because that's what he was...always. Jimmy and Nancy were an exceptional couple...."two of a kind"! (I apologize to Nancy for my lack of proper English! I'm sure Mr. Overfield turns "over in his grave" every time I open my mouth! My Mother worked with Jimmy at Smith Mills as one of his "involved Grandmothers". She held him in "highest regard"...one of the best! Warm hugs to Nancy and her family!

Judy Mathews Riley - July 06, 2024 at 01:14 PM

YF

“ Your Central Family purchased the Serenity Prayer 30" Sonnet for the family of James Edward Long.



Your Central Family - November 29, 2023 at 10:43 AM

RP

“ *Mr. Long was a precious man and a caliber that you don't see everyday...I miss him already...❤️*

Regina Preston - November 25, 2023 at 09:52 AM

SP

I just learned of Mr. Long's passing. I attended SmithMills school and had him as a wonderful, funny, and caring teacher and principal for several years. Learning was fun with him. He was an incredible role model for me and I have never forgotten the impression he made on me about school, learning, and living. He will be deeply missed.

Suzanne Whittington Posselt - September 28, 2024 at 04:02 PM

MZ

“ *Mary, Theresa, Peggy and Pat Zastawny planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Edward Long.*

Mary, Theresa, Peggy and Pat Zastawny - November 24, 2023 at 07:49 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of James Edward Long.*



November 24, 2023 at 07:49 PM

JT

“ *John T. planted a grove of 3 [Memorial Trees](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Edward Long.*

John T. - November 24, 2023 at 06:12 PM



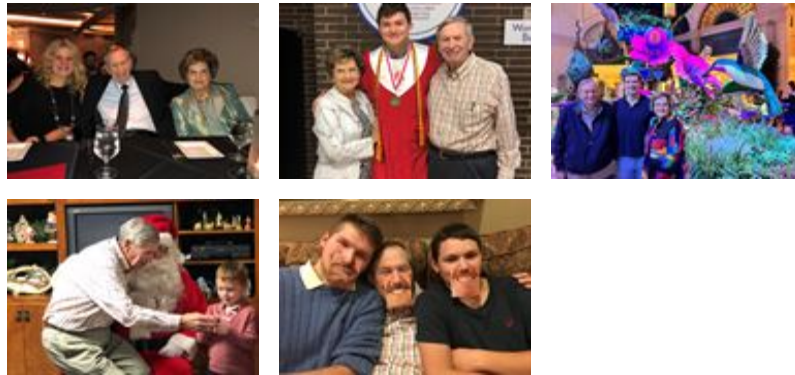
“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of James Edward Long.



November 24, 2023 at 12:23 PM



“ 59 files added to the album Life Tributes



Benton-Glunt Funeral Home - November 24, 2023 at 11:59 AM



“ Sending prayers to Mrs. Long and family.

LEEILA White class of 88

Leeila League - November 24, 2023 at 11:25 AM



“ Mark and Jill Rone planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Edward Long.

Mark and Jill Rone - November 23, 2023 at 08:04 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of James Edward Long.*



November 23, 2023 at 08:04 PM



“ *Jim Long was a true educator, an innovator and a motivator. I had the honor of traveling with his family, my wife and the Bonnet kids for two summers. We often talked about the role of education in the healthy life of a family. I learned from him, I worked hard for him and I respected him greatly.*

roy n pullam - November 23, 2023 at 12:46 AM



Thank you so much for the kind words. I know my dad felt the same about you. Abbie

Abbie Zastawny - November 23, 2023 at 08:35 PM



Jim Long was my boss at North Junior High School one summer home from college and was the best boss! He knew I hated to be bored if I wasn't busy so he came up with various projects to keep me busy. I had known him as Abbie's dad growing up but was a wonderful boss also!

Lisa O'Nan Ragsdale - November 24, 2023 at 05:33 PM



“ I'll always remember his kindness shown to me when I was a scared 17 year old attending college at HCC and I had no one to guide me. I showed up in his office when he was the Financial Aid Counselor at HCC and I tried to give back my PELL Grant money because, as I explained to him, I received a full scholarship to HCC and didn't need to Grant. He gently explained to me that it was mine to keep and that I should put into a savings account and use it to complete my Junior and Senior years of college after I graduate from HCC. He was such a kind and gentle soul and his presence on campus always brought me comfort and happiness. May he rest in God's peace.

Theresa Brown - November 22, 2023 at 07:10 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of James Edward Long.



November 22, 2023 at 06:56 PM



“ Linda Jennings Ligon planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of James Edward Long.

Linda Jennings Ligon - November 22, 2023 at 05:38 PM

LL

“ Linda Jennings Ligon purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of James Edward Long.



Linda Jennings Ligon - November 22, 2023 at 05:38 PM

CB

“ Mr. Long was a true gentleman. I will always remember the kindness he showed me when I first interviewed for HCS. He immediately recruited me to play on the women’s softball team that he loved coaching. Prayers for Mrs Nancy and the family. I was blessed to know Mr. Long. -Chasity Vanover Blakeley

Chasity Vanover Blakeley - November 22, 2023 at 03:52 PM

NP

Jim Long was a Southern Gentleman. Always there ready To help in any way he could. Condolences to Nancy and all The family. There is another Bright star in the Heavens Tonight.

Nancy Norman Patton - November 22, 2023 at 06:22 PM

AK

My sympathy to the family. I did not know Mr. Long but, I did know Mrs. long and she was the most incredible teacher I have ever had. I have long thought her marriage must be beautiful for her to be so happy, kind, and settled. She made me want such things myself. please know that you will see each other again one day and you will not have to be parted again. with affection, Adena Kerney

adena kerney - November 23, 2023 at 08:25 AM

BG

Mr Long came to my rescue at HCC in 1974. Without his guidance in financial matters I would not have been able to attend college. I recently retired after 47 years of Oncology Nursing and his kindness helped me give back to so many wonderful souls along my professional journey. He made the world a better place by stepping up and reaching out his hands with compassion. He loved helping people. I am blessed that I was one of them.

Bonita Gentry - November 25, 2023 at 12:17 PM

LN

Please accept my condolences on Jim's passing. I am sorry for your loss, Nancy, and for the loss to all your family. I appreciated learning more about his life from his obituary. The world needs more Jim Longs. May he rest in peace and may light perpetual shine upon him.

Leslie Newman - November 26, 2023 at 08:31 AM